



**Independent
Media Arts Alliance**
**Alliance des arts
médiatiques indépendants**

October 14, 2010

Hon. John Les, Chair
Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
Room 224, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4

By electronic mail: FinanceCommittee@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Les and Committee members,

I am writing on behalf of the Independent Media Arts Alliance, a national association of producers, distributors and exhibitors of Canadian media art. We are proud to have 11 member organizations in the Province of British Columbia, who represent over 1,500 independent film, video and digital media artists.

The work of our member arts organizations and their artists makes a significant contribution to the vibrancy and quality of life in British Columbia, from Victoria to Vancouver to Kelowna and Penticton. For decades, they have been working to give their communities access to tools, techniques and skills for creative expression through modern media, and to share the innovative work of British Columbia's dynamic and forward-looking artists with the public. Our member groups responsibly leverage public funding to make an important positive contribution to the cultural, social, and economic development of British Columbia's citizens.

We are writing to convey our community's concern about the level of funding to the British Columbia Arts Council provided by the provincial government. The BCAC provides a crucial component of many arts organizations' operating resources, enabling them to effectively fulfil their missions and contribute to the quality of life in their communities. On behalf of our member organizations in the province and across the country, we encourage you to not only restore funds cut in previous budgets, but to develop a sustainable plan for the long-term development of British Columbia's arts and culture sector.

Data compiled by Vancouver-based Alliance for Arts and Culture show that British Columbia is last among Canadian provinces in per capita provincial arts funding. This situation is all the more problematic given that the BC levels are less than half those of the next highest province. With the elimination of access to Gaming funds, cutbacks, instability and unpredictability in BC Arts Council funding, professional arts organizations that make major contributions to their communities and to the provincial economy are being weakened and destabilized. Your 2011 Budget provides an opportunity to address this situation, and we encourage you to listen to recommendations on this subject from your constituents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (514) 522-8240, or dir@imaa.ca. After Nov. 1, 2010 our contact person will be Jennifer Dorner, National Director, at the same address, email address and telephone number.

Sincerely,

Timothy Dallett
Interim National Director

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